

have sustained at the Spaniards' hands heretofore. Wherefore, my humble suit unto your rfonours is **to**, be a mean[s] unto the Queen's Majesty that I may be by some mean\*s, recompensed, as time and occasion hereafter shall serve;

either by some of those Spaniards' goods stayed in these West parts, or otherwise by some furtherance from the Queen's Majesty; whereby I may the better be able to recompense myself against those nations that hath offered these wrongs.'

And I shall daily pray for the long continuance of your Honour's estates,, long to endure.

From Plymouth/the 22nd day of January ,  
*anno* 1568  
[i.e. 1569.] \* -

By your Honours always to  
command,

WILLIAM  
HAWKINS.

And further, if it shall please your Honours to have some consideration towards the poor state of our town. I assure your Honours, it is not, of itself, able to provide two hundredweight of powder, without a collection amongst ourselves : and the inhabitants very poor" besides. But to our powers, we will be found ready for the defence of the same.

The great passing of Fleets, this summer [1568], Jbefore our haven, either with fleeing out of Flanders (which GOD grant!) or otherwise the repair into Flanders out of Spain, with aid, may be a means whereby the town may be put to a great after deal: which GOD forbid! Wherefore I shall desire your Honours to consider of it.

This I thought good to advertise your Honours, for my own discharge.

By your Honours always,

WILLIAM  
HAWKINS.

*Addressed—*

To the Right Honourable and my singular  
good Lordi,  
the Lords of the Privy Council; give this at the  
Court with  
all speed.

Haste! Haste!